

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

In sections "2" through "6" of the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims based on the belief that the claims fail to comply with the written description requirement. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, in order to advance prosecution, the language at issue has been removed from the claims. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is therefore respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,430,910, hereinafter Wiley.

Amended Claim 1 recites that the water treatment arrangement includes a four-way valve for controlling air flows into and out of the separation device and the water tank, wherein in a first position of the valve, the valve connects an outlet opening of the separation device with an outlet of the valve, and in a second position of the valve, the valve connects an outflow opening of the water tank with the outlet opening of the separation device.

The amendment to Claim 1 is fully supported by this application's disclosure. As illustrated in Fig. 1, a four-way valve 15 controls air flow into and out of a separation device 2 and the water tank 8. In a first position of the valve 15, the valve 15 connects an outlet opening 6 of the separation device 2 with an outlet 17 of the valve 15, and in a second position of the valve 15, the valve 15 connects an outflow opening 10 of the water tank 8 with the outlet opening 6 of the separation device 2.

Wiley clearly does not disclose a four-way valve as recited. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Wiley, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 15 is also rejected as being anticipated by Wiley.

Amended Claim 15 recites that, in the water treatment arrangement, the interior of the separation device between the inlet and the outlet of the separation device is received in the water tank to thereby form a first reservoir for settled mud on the base of the separation device and a second reservoir for cleaned water in the water tank surrounding the separation device, the first reservoir being separated from the second reservoir by a wall of the separation device which prevents fluid communication between the first reservoir and the second reservoir.

The amendment to Claim 15 is fully supported by this application's disclosure. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the interior of the separation device 2 between the inlet 3 and the outlet 6 of the separation device 2 is received in the water tank 8. As discussed in the second full paragraph on page nine of the originally filed specification, this arrangement forms a mud reservoir 5 for settled mud on the base of the separation device 2, and a water reservoir for cleaned water in the water tank 8 surrounding the separation device 2 which is separated from the water reservoir. As can be seen in Fig. 1, the mud reservoir 5 is separated from the second reservoir by a wall of the separation device 2 which prevents fluid communication between the mud reservoir 5 and the water reservoir.

Wiley discloses a carpet cleaning apparatus in which a discharge end 162 of a conduit 164 enters a vertical cylindrical tube 150 with a closed top 152 and an open bottom 154. The water falls through the open bottom 154 into the water

compartment above the bottom 144 of the outer shell 130 and exits via the waste liquid inlet 165 and the fluid conduit 102 to a waste pump for discharging the waste liquid to a drain or sewer line. The air entering the tube 150 together with the water/cleaning solution mixture, through the dirty water and cleaning solution conduit 164, is drawn through the filter 140 and perforations provided at the upper end of tube 134 by a blower 16 and exits through the discharge region 142.

The apparatus thus separates water and air during a carpet cleaning operation. The water is reused for the pressure pump and the air goes to the blower. The inner dirty water and cleaning solution tube 150 tube is open at the lower end and directly connected with the outer shell 130. Accordingly, there is, at most, a single reservoir since the open tube 150 communicates with the region 166 of outer shell 130.

Accordingly, Wiley does not disclose a water treatment arrangement wherein the interior of the separation device between the inlet and the outlet of the separation device is received in the water tank to thereby form a first reservoir for settled mud on the base of the separation device and a second reservoir for cleaned water in the water tank surrounding the separation device, the first reservoir being separated from the second reservoir by a wall of the separation device which prevents fluid communication between the first reservoir and the second reservoir, in combination with the other features recited in amended Claim 15.

Claim 15 is therefore allowable over Wiley, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 15 is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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